From: The Cipher Brief
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Do you have your seat at the table March 24-26th in Sea Island, GA?

*"**The Cipher Brief Threat Conference** is a premiere gathering of national security experts from the public and private sectors. Business has never needed a clearer global picture than now. Seasoned intelligence professionals speak freely and candidly every day on the Cipher Brief and bring their intellect, their experience, and their global networks to bear on what will be tomorrow's news. The Cipher Brief Threat Conference is a Live-Action version of what you get on The Cipher Brief, every day."-*

***General Michael Hayden**, Former Director of the NSA & CIA, 2017 - 2018 Keynote Speaker*

Dispatches from Hanoi

After much anticipation of a signing ceremony between the U.S. and North Korea this week, President Donald Trump and North Leader Kim Jong-un left Hanoi with no deal.

- *It was a move applauded even by President Trump's harshest critics, as it became clear that the U.S. and North Korea, despite two high-profile summits, hold very different views on what a 'good deal' means for each side.*

- *Cipher Brief Expert and former CIA Chief of Station **Dan Hoffman** was in Hanoi for the talks and filed this dispatch with The Cipher Brief before heading back to the U.S.*

Get Hoffman's Hanoi Dispatch here…

Cyber Initiator:Taking Down Russian Trolls is My Kind of Cyber Attack

'The debate on cyber conflict has gotten so locked into deterrence, escalation, coercion, and signaling we pundits often forget that conflict is sometimes straight forward and you just have to stop adversaries from punching you,' writes cyber expert Jason Healey.

- *This ought to be the main lesson from Ellen Nakashima's article that U.S. Cyber **Command disrupted the Internet connection of the Internet Research Agency**, the Russian troll factory, to prevent their trying to disrupt the 2018 mid-term U.S. election.*

- *This was not about "deterrence" or "signaling" but a specific counter-offensive op to counter a specific adversary from conducting a specific activity during a specified window of high-vulnerability. It was part of campaign specifically approved by the president. **Jim Miller**, former Undersecretary of Defense and Cipher Brief*expert, calls this "kicking the knife out of the hand" of attackers.

Get Jason Healey's expert take on the U.S.' reported offensive cyber operation against aa Russian Troll Farm here…

Dead Drop

It's Friday. You know what to do. Here's a peek at what's in this week's Drop:

- *The State Department Loses Interest*
- *Is there a CIA in Wakanda?*
- *Protesting employees at Microsoft overlook a key, DoD war-driving tool*

Get this week's Dead Drop…

Intel Brief: Shifting Geopolitical Tides in Syria

A Dutch cybersecurity researcher reported that Chinese company SenseNets exposed millions of people's facial recognition information.

- China has used facial recognition to target Muslim ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region.
- Venezuela is also adopting an identification card system similar to the Chinese model to track and collect information about their citizens.
- Personal information collected by states and their corporate partners is valuable to criminals and its exposure could place citizens at greater risk.

Get the Intel Brief, Powered by the Soufan Center…

What's Happening Here?

*Join **The Hayden Center March 11th at 6:30p** for The Hill Has Eyes: Congressional Oversight of Intelligence. The compelling conversation will focus on oversight by Congress of intelligence activities. Michael Morell will moderate a panel discussion featuring former Representatives Jane Harman and Mike Rogers and former Senators Saxby Chambliss and Bill Nelson, all former members and/or leaders of our congressional intelligence committees. The event will take place in the amphitheater of the Ronald Reagan Building. Link to registration is at: **https://the-hill-has-eyes.eventbrite.com**.*

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*Join **Dr. Catherine Lotrionte and The Atlantic Council on April 23** as they host The International Conference on Cyber Engagement. **Registration is now open**. The ICCE draws on the experience of government practitioners, industry representatives, and academic scholars to bring a multidisciplinary and global approach to the challenges in cyberspace. The last International Conference on Cyber Engagement **attracted over 800 participants from nearly 400 organizations**—corporate, government, non-profit, and academic —**representing 43 nations.***

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